

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 14-18 and 20-27 are pending in this application. Dependent claim 19 is herein canceled without prejudice as the features in dependent claim 19 are now introduced into independent claim 14. As the amendments merely incorporate subject matter from a dependent claim into its independent claim, applicants submit the present response does not present any amendments or new issues that would preclude entry of this Amendment.

Claims 14-22 and 24-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. patent 2,693,165 to Appleman in view of U.S. patent 5,913,414 to Pollock et al. (herein "Pollock") in view of U.S. patent 5,845,365 to Howie, Jr. (herein "Howie"). Claim 23 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Appleman in view of Pollock and Howie and further in view of U.S. patent 3,421,474 to Demi. Those rejections are traversed as now discussed.

As noted above independent claim 14 now incorporates the features from previously pending dependent claim 19, and now particularly recites:

wherein the handle further includes an angular position display pointer made of the same material as the integrated mechanical base and molded together therewith, the angular position display pointer extending into the gripping tab portion of the cap.

Independent claim 27 also recites the above-noted feature. The above-noted feature is believed to clearly distinguish over the applied art. The above-noted features previously recited in dependent claim 19 and now incorporated in independent claim 14 and also recited in independent claim 27 are shown for example in Figure 3 in the present specification as a non-limiting example. As shown in Figure 3 the claimed handle includes an angular position display pointer 27 made of the same material of the integrated mechanical base 21 and molded together with the integrated mechanical base 21. The angular position display pointer

further extends into the gripping tab portion 22A of the cap. Applicants submit that structure is clearly neither taught nor suggested by the applied art and has not been properly considered in the Office Action.

With respect to the feature of the position display pointer the outstanding Office Action now cites Howie and particularly element 81 as shown for example in Figures 1 and 3.¹

Applicants traverse that grounds for the rejection and submit the citations in Howie are not at all related to the claimed features. Element 81 in Howie appears to be a window that can function as an indicator. Howie for example at column 2, lines 49-51 states “[w]hen the opaque plastic of the outer covering hardens around the perimeter of the window 43, the window will function as an indicator 81”. From the figures in Howie it also appears clear the noted indicated 81 is an integral part of the composite knob 11.

The claimed invention has a different structure of an angular position display pointer than in Howie. In the claimed invention, the angular position display pointer is “made of the same material as the integrated mechanical base and *molded together therewith*” (emphasis added). Applicants also note that the claimed “integrated mechanical base” is an element that is covered by a cap, and is not part of the cap. Again with reference to Figure 3 in the present specification as a non-limiting example, the integrated mechanical base 21 is covered by the cap 22, and particularly by a disk portion 22B of the cap 22, and the angular position display pointer extends into the gripping tab portion 22A of the cap 22. A window functioning as an indicator 81 in Howie clearly does not correspond to such a structure.

Applicants also note since in Howie a window of a knob 11 functions as the indicator 81, clearly that indicator 81 in Howie does not extend into a gripping cap portion of the cap, and again does not even extend from an integrated mechanical base.

¹ Office Action of November 13, 2009, page 4, fourth full paragraph, and page 7, penultimate paragraph.

In such ways applicants respectfully submit clearly Howie does not disclose or suggest the features now clarified in independent claim 14 and recited in independent claim 27 of:

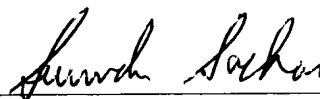
wherein the handle further includes an angular position display pointer made of the same material as the integrated mechanical base and molded together therewith, the angular position display pointer extending into the gripping tab portion of the cap.

Thereby, Howie clearly cannot cure the recognized deficiencies of Appleman in view of Pollack with respect to the above-claimed features and thereby the claims as currently written positively recite features neither taught nor suggested by the applied art.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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